

REMARKS

The Office Action has alleged that the above-referenced patent application contains claims directed to eleven (identified as a-k) patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In this regard, Applicant submits that the present application is directed to only three distinct species of invention: Figs. 1-8 being one species, Figs. 9-12 being a second species, and Figs. 13-17 being a third species. As an example, Fig. 3 illustrates a structure of a wavelength managing module (reference numeral 201). Figs. 5, 6, etc. illustrate alternative structures connected between the second and third ports of the wavelength managing module 201. Consequently, these figures illustrate a common structure. As such, Applicant respectfully elects the species corresponding to Figs. 1-8 for continued prosecution.

Accepting, for the moment, the species set forth by the Office Action, the following table sets forth the claims that correspond to each figure:

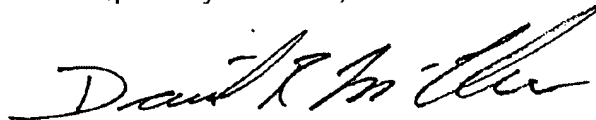
| SPECIES | CORRESPONDING CLAIMS |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fig. 2 | Claims 18-23 |
| Fig. 3 | Claims 1-5 and 9 |
| Fig. 5 | Claims 1, 9 and 11 |
| Fig. 6 | Claims 1, 2 and 10 |
| Fig. 8 | Claims 24 and 25 |
| Fig. 9 | Claims 1-7 and 9 |
| Fig. 10 | Claims 1-9 |
| Fig. 11 | Claims 1, 12-16 |
| Fig. 12 | Claims 1, 12-15 and 17 |
| Figs. 13A, 13B, 14 and 16 | Claims 28-34 |
| Figs. 13A, 13B, 15 and 17 | Claims 28-36 |

Applicant, however, traverses this identification by the Office Action. In accordance with Applicant's view, Figs. 1-8 (corresponding to claims 1-11, 18-25) are directed to a first species, Figs. 9-12 (corresponding to claims 1-9, 12-17) correspond to a second species, and Figs. 3-17 (corresponding to claims 28-36) correspond to a third species.

As can be seen, claims 1-9 are generic to the species of Figs. 1-8 and 9-12. Applicant hereby elects the species corresponding to Figs. 1-8 for continued prosecution. Claims 1-11 and 18-25 correspond to this species.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. However, should any fee be deemed payable, you are hereby authorized to debit our deposit account 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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